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Addendum

World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 8th meeting, on 21 May 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 7, which read "World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice".

2. For its consideration of item 7, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNODC (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide (E/CN.15/2015/5);

(c) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of UNODC on the international classification of crime for statistical purposes (E/CN.15/2015/13);

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and UNODC on crime statistics (E/CN.15/2015/14);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide (A/CONF.222/4);

(f) Outcome of the expert group meeting on timber analysis (10-12 December 2014) (E/CN.15/2015/CRP.4);

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(g) Non-paper submitted by Brazil reflecting its views on the issue of cybercrime (E/CN.15/2015/CRP.5).

3. A representative of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs made an introductory statement. The Chief of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit of UNODC made an oral report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, El Salvador, Japan, Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, the United States of America, Mexico and China. Statements were also made by the observers for Romania, the Sudan, Azerbaijan, France and India.

5. A statement was also made by the observer for Penal Reform International.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers welcomed the recent endorsement by the Statistical Commission of the international classification of crime for statistical purposes as a historic landmark in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of States to collect comparable and reliable data. They encouraged UNODC, as the custodian of the classification, to provide technical assistance and methodological guidance on its implementation at the national and international levels.

7. A number of speakers also expressed their continued support for the efforts of UNODC to collect statistics on crime and criminal justice through its annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and to disseminate the data through its official website. In this context several speakers referred to the value of reliable and comparable data for the development of evidence-based crime prevention and criminal justice policies and for the monitoring of such policies and their outcomes in the framework of proposed sustainable development goals 5 and 16 and the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Reference was also made to UNODC expertise as a technical resource to be used in the selection of indicators to monitor the sustainable development goals.

8. Speakers expressed concern regarding the increasing misuse of information and communications technologies and the Internet by organized crime groups carrying out new and emerging forms of crime. Particular concern was expressed in relation to online child abuse and exploitation, illicit drug trafficking through the Internet and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, for trafficking in persons and for the smuggling of migrants.

9. Many speakers reported on recent efforts by their Governments to combat cybercrime through preventive, legislative, cybersecurity and law enforcement measures. Most speakers underlined that international and regional cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation, were the most effective ways of combating cybercrime, and recalled the text of the Doha Declaration in this regard.

10. Support was expressed for technical assistance and capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening the abilities of national law enforcement and judiciary

authorities to effectively investigate and prosecute cybercrime, including through the proper handling of electronic evidence. Some speakers expressed support for the role of UNODC and the Global Programme on Cybercrime in carrying out such activities.

11. Some speakers expressed the view that a comprehensive new international legal instrument was needed in order to effectively combat cybercrime. One speaker proposed that such an instrument should focus on relevant aspects of criminal procedure law. Other speakers expressed the view that a new international legal instrument was not necessary, but rather that States should focus on effectively implementing existing instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, and on identifying national technical assistance needs. Some speakers looked forward to continuing the work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime and to considering further the UNODC comprehensive study on cybercrime.

12. Regarding fraudulent medicines it was noted that the issue involved primarily sanitary and public health aspects and therefore the appropriate international forum to discuss this topic was the World Health Organization, in particular its member States mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products. On the other hand, reference was also made to efforts by UNODC to implement Commission resolution 20/6 and to the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health.

13. The adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences by the General Assembly was welcomed. Some speakers noted that transnational organized crime often occurred where the rule of law was weak, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings. Some speakers noted that the post-2015 development agenda should take into account matters such as the rule of law, good governance and human rights.

14. Some speakers highlighted that wildlife and forest crime was linked to transnational organized crime and affected not only countries, but also entire regions. Wildlife and forest crime was also linked to other crimes, such as money-laundering, smuggling of migrants and drug trafficking. Some speakers described the actions undertaken to strengthen national legislation and law enforcement responses. Marine living resources were highlighted as a cross-cutting issue, affecting sustainable economic and social development and the political stability of States that relied on fishing. It was also stressed that the depletion of fish stocks was seen as a crime against the environment.